

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Original claims 1-8 and 17-26 are presented below, and are unamended.

Claims 9-16 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 27-45 as presented below.

1. (Original) A laminated shingle for optically simulating a slate roof, comprising:

an overlay member having a front surface, a rear surface, an upper portion and a lower portion, the lower portion including one or more tabs separated by cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules applied to the front surface with a precision such that the color blend for each tab is substantially uniform in color, and an underlay member having a front surface, the front surface being attached to the rear surface of the overlay member,

wherein at least one tab of the shingle has a different color blend from a tab of a different shingle when laid on a roof with other substantially identically shaped shingles in overlapping longitudinal courses.

2. (Original) The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein the underlay member includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area, the cutouts of the overlay member exposing a portion of the front surface of the underlay member.

3. (Original) The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein the overlay member also includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area.

4. (Original) The laminated shingle according to Claim 3, wherein the layer of relatively dark granules is applied randomly to one of a lower edge and an upper edge of each tab of the overlay member.

5. (Original) The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein each tab is generally rectangular in shape.

6. (Original) The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein a lower edge of the overlay member is generally co-linear with a lower edge of the underlay member.

7. (Original) The laminated shingle according to Claim 6, wherein each cutout of the overlay member includes at least one beveled edge, and wherein the lower edge of the underlay member includes a corresponding beveled edge.

8. (Original) The laminated shingle according to Claim 1, wherein a width of at least one tab is different from a width of at least one other tab of the overlay member.

9-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A roof covering including a plurality of successive generally horizontal courses of laminated shingles, the shingles in each course being laid in a side-by-side relationship and horizontally offset from the shingles in adjacent courses, each laminated shingle comprising:

an overlay member having front and rear surfaces, the overlay member including a headlap portion and a butt portion, the butt portion including a plurality of

tabs separated by cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules on the front surface forming a generally uniform color blend; and

an underlay member having a front surface attached to the rear surface of the overlay member,

wherein at least one tab of at least one shingle has a different color blend from at least one other tab when laid on a roof with other substantially identically shaped shingles in overlapping longitudinal courses to optically simulate a slate roof.

18. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein the underlay member includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area, the cutouts of the overlay member exposing a portion of the front surface of the underlay member.

19. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein the overlay member also includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area.

20. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 19, wherein the layer of relatively dark granules is applied randomly to one of a lower edge and an upper edge of each tab of the overlay member.

21. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein each tab is generally rectangular in shape.

22. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein a lower edge of the overlay member is generally co-linear with a lower edge of the underlay member.

23. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 22, wherein each cutout of the overlay member includes at least one beveled edge, and wherein the lower edge of the underlay member includes a corresponding beveled edge.

24. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein a width of at least one tab is different from a width of at least one other tab of the overlay member.

25. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 17, wherein approximately 60% of the plurality of tabs have a first background color comprising a light gray, approximately 25% of the plurality of tabs have a second background color, comprising dark gray, and about 15 percent of the tiles have a third color other than gray.

26. (Original) The roof covering according to Claim 25, wherein the third color comprises purple.

ADD NEW CLAIMS 27- 45 as follows:

27. (New) A laminated shingle comprising:  
an underlay member having a front surface; and  
an overlay member attached to the front surface of the underlay member, the overlay member having a front surface, a rear surface, an upper portion and a lower portion, the lower portion including a plurality of tabs separated by cutouts, with portions of the underlay member being exposed through the cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules applied to the front surface with a precision such that the color blend for each tab is substantially uniform in color, with the color blend of one of the tabs being different from the color blend of at least one other tab in the shingle, and each cutout having a width that is sufficiently narrowly defined relative to

the width of the tabs so that the lower portion of the shingle simulates a plurality of adjacent slate roof tiles.

28. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 27 wherein the color blends have a generally rectangular shape.

29. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 27 wherein the underlay member includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area, the cutouts of the overlay member exposing a portion of the dark shading area of the underlay member.

30. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 27 wherein each cutout of the overlay member includes at least one beveled edge, and wherein a lower edge of the underlay member includes a corresponding beveled edge.

31. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 27 wherein a width of at least one tab is different from a width of at least one other tab of the overlay member.

32. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 27 wherein the overlay member includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area.

33. (New) A roof covering including a series of generally horizontal courses of laminated shingles, the shingles in each course being laid in a side-by-side relationship and horizontally offset from the shingles in adjacent courses, each laminated shingle comprising:

an underlay member having a front surface; and  
an overlay member attached to the front surface of the underlay member, the overlay member having a front surface, a rear surface, an upper portion and a lower portion, the lower portion including a plurality of tabs separated by cutouts, with portions of the underlay member being exposed through the cutouts, each tab including a layer of granules applied to the front surface with a precision such that the color blend for each tab is substantially uniform in color, and each cutout having a width that is sufficiently narrowly defined relative to the width of the tabs so that the lower portion of the shingle simulates a plurality of adjacent slate roof tiles;

wherein at least some of the shingles are configured so that the color blend of one of the tabs of the shingle is different from the color blend of at least one other tab of the shingle.

34. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 33 wherein the color blends have a generally rectangular shape.

35. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 33 wherein the underlay member of the shingles includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area, the cutouts of the overlay member exposing a portion of the dark shading area of the underlay member.

36. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 33 wherein each cutout of the overlay member includes at least one beveled edge, and wherein a lower edge of the underlay member includes a corresponding beveled edge.

37. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 33 wherein a width of at least one tab is different from a width of at least one other tab of the overlay member.

38. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 33 wherein the overlay member includes a layer of relatively dark granules on the front surface forming a dark shading area.

39. (New) A laminated shingle comprising:  
an underlay member having a front surface; and  
an overlay member attached to the front surface of the underlay member, the overlay member having a front surface, a rear surface, an upper portion and a lower portion, and further including granules adhered to the lower portion, with the granules on the lower portion forming a plurality of color blends that are separated from one another to simulate a plurality of adjacent slate roof tiles, with one of the color blends of the shingle being different from at least one other color blend in the shingle.

40. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 39 wherein adjacent color blends are separated by a layer of granules having a width that is sufficiently narrowly defined relative to the width of the tabs so that the lower portion of the shingle simulates a plurality of adjacent, separated slate roof tiles.

41. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 39 wherein the color blends have a generally rectangular shape.

42. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 39 wherein adjacent color blends are separated by a layer of relatively dark granules.

43. (New) A shingle having a front surface, a rear surface, an upper portion and a lower portion, and further including granules adhered to the lower portion, with the granules on the lower portion forming a plurality of color blends that have a generally rectangular shape and that are separated from one another by a layer of granules that is sufficiently narrowly defined relative to the width of the color blends to simulate a plurality of adjacent slate roof tiles, with one of the color blends of the shingle being different from at least one other color blend in the shingle.

44. (New) The laminated shingle of claim 43 wherein the layer of granules separating adjacent color blends is a layer of relatively dark granules.

45. (New) A shingle having a front surface, a rear surface, an upper portion and a lower portion, and further including granules adhered to the lower portion, with the granules on the lower portion forming a plurality of color blends having a generally rectangular shape to simulate a plurality of adjacent slate roof tiles, with one of the color blends of the shingle being different from at least one other color blend in the shingle.